

Long Term Care Coordinating Council

Regular Meeting

April 13, 2011

10:00 am

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

1511 Pontiac Avenue

Cranston, RI

Draft Minutes

Chairwoman Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:11am

The approval of the minutes was tabled to following meeting for edits and amendments.

The chair recognized Ray Rusin from the Department of Health to discuss nursing home regulation activities. Mr. Rusin stated that two facilities were reported deficiency free. Westerly health center reported a high medication error rate in February. The council discussed medication errors and what constitutes an error. Mr. Rusin stated that HEALTH has been working with homes to focus on more patient-centered care. For example, a prescription that designates a specific time for dispensing is not ideal because it may call for waking a patient for medication administration.

The council also discussed the salmonella case and the coordination between nursing home regulation and food service regulation.

The chair recognized Director Craig Stenning from the Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH). The director discussed the budget proposal for the agency.

He stated that the budgeting process was restarted in January as an initiative of the new administration. The target for each agency was 15% savings in state general revenue and the director stated that cuts of that magnitude required an investigation of programs that are 100% state funded.

The first major proposal discussed by the director was Medicaid Health Homes. This is a delivery system reform incentivized with an increased FMAP. Health homes create a centralized base of coordinated care, specifically geared to patients with mental health conditions and/or chronic health conditions. The program would service approximately 7500 people. The council discussed the need to coordinate between community service providers and hospitals.

The director also discussed Project Sustainability, a program for the developmental disability service line. The final phase involves the implementation of a new series of service definitions and a new payment and rate system. The goal is a more transparent payment system, which will be administered electronically. 2011 savings are estimated to be \$2.2 million. The director urged caution as the DD system will need to learn how to care for patients in their 50's or 60's and whose main caregiver has been a parent who is now unable to care for their child.

The director discussed other initiatives including the reduction of group homes through consolidating vacancies, reprocurring the substance abuse outpatient system with savings, consolidating training for mental health providers, hiring full-time employees to reduce overtime at Eleanor Slater, and consolidating the campus in

Cranston for Eleanor Slater. The director also discussed the adolescent substance abuse program and ensuring commercial payers exhaust the benefit before the state takes the cost.

The chair introduced Elena Nicolella, the state Medicaid director to discuss budget initiatives in Medicaid. Ms. Nicolella first discussed the grant applications from the state. The state received the Money Follows the Person grant that will assist in increased use of home and community based services. The state also secured a Medicare Advanced Practice Grant which will include Medicare in the state's Patient Centered Medical Home initiative. The state did not received the dual eligible grant from CMS. Ms. Nicolella stated that it seemed the grants went to states that already did some legwork on contracts that included coordinated purchasing for the dual eligibles.

Ms. Nicolella also discussed the budget proposals from the Medicaid program. The first is a proposal to change the structure of nursing home payments. The budget target is to reduce nursing home payments by \$12 million or 5%. The legislation also proposed a shift the in the method of payment to nursing homes to a price based system. Ms. Nicolella stated that there is not a specific proposal for the new system, but there are guiding principles, namely:

- i. People that are in nursing homes are appropriately placed and are getting the services they need based on their acuity.**
- ii. Same payment for same service, but higher quality home should be rewarded.**
- iii. Medicaid Skilled Nursing access – right now, you can only go through Long Term Care application which is not the best door**

iv. Nursing homes should be able to apply for grants to foster culture change

The council discussed this proposal, including the eligibility and access to skilled nursing stays and the current nursing payment system and the incentives built into the structure.

Ms. Nicolella also discussed other budget initiatives. One initiative is selective contracting for home health agencies. Ms. Nicolella stated that the main goal is to set standards for the agencies that Medicaid works with. One problem has been weekend coverage. Any agency that agrees to meet the standards would be eligible to participate. Ms. Nicolella also discussed cuts to transportation payment for non-emergency medical transport and a pain management initiative.

The chair recognized Dan Meuse from the Office of Lt. Governor to discuss legislation. Mr. Meuse stated that the Legislative sub-committee met in advance of the full council meeting and discussed a number of pieces of legislation. The committee suggested that for three pieces of legislation, the council submit a letter that encourages legislative action because of the important issue that the bills address, but not express support for the bill as written. The bills are:

- Senate Bill 203 and House Bill 5632 that would require a certificate of need for new home care or hospice agencies;**
- Senate Bill 473 and House Bill 5794 that clarify the definition of**

dementia for the purposes of assisted living placement; and

- **House Bill 5628 which develops regulatory standards for Personal Care Attendants.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57am